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## OFA Bill Analysis

### sSB 21

#### ***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

**Section 1** eliminates the requirement that \$135 million of Indian gaming revenue be transferred from the General Fund to the Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund for aid to municipalities. Instead, it requires that the amount transferred from the General Fund to the Pequot fund be equal to the amount appropriated for Pequot grants to towns.

**Section 2** requires Pequot grant funding retained from municipalities due to noncompliance with Land Use Recording Fee collection requirements to be transferred from the Pequot fund to the General Fund. Municipalities are required to remit land use recording fees to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. If municipalities do not comply with this requirement, they are penalized via a reduction in their Pequot grant payment. Currently, funding that is not paid out due to these penalties is retained by the Pequot fund.

Section 2 also eliminates obsolete language regarding the Land Use Recording Fee.

**Section 3** requires each basic and review training program for State Police and municipal police officers to include a course on handling incidents involving an individual affected by a serious mental illness.

**Section 4** eliminates the transfer of funds from the Dry Cleaning Remediation account to the Dry Cleaning Remediation administration account, a non-appropriated account.

**Sections 5 - 11 and 27** transfer the administration of the Renters' Rebate Program from the Department of Housing to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Section 9 additionally permits OPM to determine whether a renter was overpaid, and in such a case, recoup the overpayment amount in subsequent grants paid to the renter.

**Section 6** re-opens eligibility for the Renters' Rebate Program to individuals who did not receive a rebate for calendar year 2011 and/or any subsequent year. Under current law, such individuals are ineligible to apply for a grant in the program. The bill applies to applications made on or after April 1, 2014.

**Section 12** requires the Office of the State Treasurer to transfer military medals received as unclaimed property to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**Section 13** adds two members to the School Building Projects Advisory Council.

**Sections 14 - 19** limit the benefits from the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines' Fund (SSMF) to \$2.0 million annually and permit these benefits to be paid from interest income and dividends generated by the Fund or from the principal of the Fund itself if interest income and dividends are insufficient in any given year. The bill prohibits the American Legion, which will begin to administer the Fund in FY 15, from charging administrative costs to the Fund.

**Sections 20 - 22** allow all furnishings, equipment and supplies currently used by the SSMF to be transferred to the American Legion in FY 15. The American Legion may also utilize a state owned or leased building and shall not be charged if the building was provided on an in-kind basis with the approval of the Department of Administrative Services.

**Sections 23 to 25** establish a separate fee for the State Innovation Model (SIM), which is housed under the Office of the Healthcare Advocate. OPM must annually determine the amount spent on the development and implementation of the SIM and inform the Insurance

Commissioner of the amount. The Insurance Commissioner will annually assess each domestic insurer, health care center, third-party administrator and exempt insurer doing health insurance business in the state for the cost of the SIM and deposit the proceeds in the Insurance Fund.

Section 25 also transfers the health and welfare fee assessment revenue from the General Fund to the Insurance Fund. This change is in concert with the transfer of the Immunization Services account under the Department of Public Health from the General Fund to the Insurance Fund, provided in sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014. Except for: Section 3, effective October 1, 2014; Sections 5 – 11 and 27, effective from passage and applicable to applications made on and after April 1, 2014; Sections 13, 26, and 27, effective from passage.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 19 (04/01/2014)